

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor system comprising:-

a retractor having a retracting sleeve for insertion into a wound opening, ~~wherein the retractor includes~~ and a distal portion including a portion of the retracting sleeve and a distal ring, the portion of the retracting sleeve being attached substantially continuously around the distal ring; and

an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the distal portion such that the distal ring is located within a body cavity and the retracting sleeve lines the wound opening, the insertion tool including a groove ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive and hold the distal portion ~~such that, in a deployment position, in an engaged position where~~ the distal ring ~~is positioned to intersect~~ intersects a primary central longitudinal axis of the insertion tool, and the distal ring extends generally in the ~~direction of the a longitudinal axis~~ direction with respect to the insertion tool.

- 2-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring is of flexible material.

7. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring is of elastomeric material.

8. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool comprises an elongate member having a distal end.

9. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the distal end of the insertion tool has a cutting blade for penetrating the wound opening by piercing.

10-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool comprises a an enlarged proximal handle portion.

15. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool has a wound extending engaging portion with a transverse-dimension width of from 3 to 35 mm.

16. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the transverse-dimension width of the wound extending engaging portion is from 5 to 12 mm.

17. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wound retractor further comprises:

a proximal member for location externally of a wound opening;

the proximal member being movable ~~relative to the retracting sleeve~~ to shorten the an axial extent amount of the retracting sleeve between the proximal member and the distal ring to laterally retract a wound opening.

18. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the proximal member comprises an annular ring means assembly.

19. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the annular ring means assembly comprises an inner ring and an outer ring ~~between which, and the retracting sleeve may be lead~~ extends between the inner ring and the outer ring.

20. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 19 wherein one of the rings inner ring or outer ring defines a projection for location in a complimentary recess of the other of the inner ring or outer ring, with the retracting sleeve located therebetween.

21. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the projection is a relatively tight fit in the recess to grip the retracting sleeve therebetween.

22. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the projection is locatable in the recess in a snap-fit manner.

23. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the inner ring defines the projection and the outer ring defines the recess.

24. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the outer ring defines the projection and the inner ring defines the recess.

25. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the proximal member comprises one or more valves to facilitate sealed access of an object through the proximal member.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring comprises an O-ring.

28. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring comprises an annular disc.

29. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring is of a resilient material.

30. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the retracting sleeve is flared distally outwardly.

31. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the retractor ~~comprises means to~~ includes a seal assembly ~~a retracted to seal the~~ wound opening.

32. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the ~~sealing means~~ seal assembly is provided externally of a the wound opening.

33. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the ~~sealing means~~ seal assembly is mountable to the proximal member.

34. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 33 wherein the ~~sealing means comprises~~ forms a cap on the retractor.

35. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the ~~sealing means comprises~~ seal assembly includes a valve to facilitate sealed access of an object through the ~~sealing means~~ seal assembly.

36. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 35 wherein the object comprises an instrument.

37-54. (Cancelled).

55. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor system comprising:-  
a retractor having a retracting member for insertion into a wound opening,  
wherein the retractor includes a distal portion; and  
an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the  
distal portion through the wound opening, wherein the insertion tool includes a unitary  
wound opening engaging portion consisting essentially of a monolithic shaft,  
the insertion tool further including a distal end portion, ~~the distal end portion~~  
including a retractor receiving portion ~~configured to position the distal portion generally~~  
~~in the direction of a central longitudinal axis of the insertion tool, and the retractor~~  
~~receiving portion, the retractor receiving portion~~ including an opening facing the wound  
opening during deployment distally away from the insertion tool.

56. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 55, wherein the distal  
portion comprises a distal ring member mounted to the retracting member.

57. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 55 wherein the distal  
end portion is configured to penetrate the wound opening.

58. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor system comprising:-

a retractor having a retracting member for insertion into a wound opening, wherein the retractor includes a distal portion including a distal ring; and

an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the retracting member in the wound opening, wherein the insertion tool includes

a groove for receiving the distal portion ~~such that, in a deployment position, to hold the distal portion in an engaged position where~~ the distal ring extends generally in the ~~direction of the~~ a longitudinal axis direction with respect to the insertion tool, and

a taper toward the longitudinal axis in a plane normal to a plane formed by the distal ring when the distal ring is in the deployment engaged position.

59. (Cancelled).

60. (Cancelled).

61. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 55, wherein the retractor receiving portion includes a groove and the opening forms a part of the groove.